The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

MARCH 2023 VOLUME 20 ISSUE 03 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FROM THE EDITOR!

Hello Again Members!

Yes, another month has passed… Been fairly busy here at Radio WG7X. The biggest event of course was the Mike & Key Swap meet on the 11th. For the first time in many years, I had a table there. I wanted to clear off some of my excess equipment, stuff that I had not used in a long time, sometimes decades.

So, I priced everything to sell and my goal was to return home empty handed. I succeeded mostly… Had a few items that no one wanted, not even myself. Those might be of interest to someone in the club, hard to say. I'll have to ask Red WB7EC what he thinks.

No real article on the swap meet, but some nice pictures taken and some sent in for you all to look at beginning on page ten. Take a look and see what you missed. I must say that it was fun watching all the folks pass by the tables. Enjoyed meeting the folks and trying to get them to buy some of my "junque"!

Hopefully, some of you also attended and had a good visit. One thing I've noticed about ham fests, even though I've only had

tables at a couple of them. All the real wheeling and dealing happens way before the doors open to the general public. So much so that if I was really looking for deals on used stuff, it would be worth it to buy a table just to get access to the pre-show horse trading!

Seriously!

73 Gary

WG7X: Editor Radio Club of Tacoma Loggers Bark.

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Radio Club of Tacoma
Minutes of Board of Directors
Meeting

March 1st 2023

Meeting called to order at 19:00 by President Mike W7XTZ
Officers and Directors Present:
President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD
Board: Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board: Phil Pia K7PIA
Quorum? A quorum was present and eighteen members attended in person or via Zoom. The attendance list is attached.

Silent Key or Illness

- SK- Jim Hatfield K7SSS 2-08-23. No other information is available.
- SK – Debbie Oakman KD7UYN 2-15-23. See the February BARK for Debbie's obituary.
- Randy WB4SPB reported Paul Saunier W7GAN came to the club last Saturday and now is testing positive for Covid as is Steve Dightman AF7YD who was also at the clubhouse Saturday.

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2023, RCT BOD Meeting. Without objections the minutes were approved as posted.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)
Mike W7MKE reported the club received property and Personal property tax assessments this month. Other receipts are routine bills, magazines, etc..

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)
Steve AF7YD mentioned some of the big ticket items he posted this month were insurance and taxes. His report is attached.
Steve AF7YD also stated that the Personal property list needs to be updated but we have a better idea of how to do the listings now after changing insurers. Mike W7MKE and Adam W2NCC asked that Steve forward to them a copy of the Excel spreadsheet of our listings so they can help update it.

Committee / Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)
Mike W7XH reported club membership at 276 with 11 new members since the first of the year.
We also re-enrolled a member who returned to us after lapsing in 2012.

Training (AD7AB)

Mike W7XTZ talked to Stephen AD7AB about checking on the Puyallup Fair. Stephen seemed enthusiastic about doing it. He's going to contact Ken Wahl 253-841-5066 about what's available for RCT at the Puyallup Fair.

VE (AC7WW)

John AC7WW: Your VE Team traveled South to JBLM for an Exam session on Friday Feb 10TH. Eight exam elements were graded from eight candidates. Five passed element 2 to become Technician and one candidate passed element 4 to Extra. Two candidates failed to get an upgrade or an initial license. Thanks to Jan K7HTU, Stephen AD7AB and Mike W7XH for their time and service.

On Tuesday February 14th your VE Team hosted 11 candidates at the clubhouse grading 19 elements. Seven passed element 2 to become Technicians, one passed element 2 and 3 to become a General. One passed element 4 to become an Extra. Two candidates failed to obtain an initial license.
Thanks to Quentin K7DRQ, Rich KK7VH, Mike W7XH and Stephen AD7AB for their time and service.
Next test sessions will be at JLBM Friday March 3 and at the Clubhouse Tuesday March 14th.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reported all systems nominal. He appreciates people who report broken links or needed updates to the website. Randy reports he is planning to replace the computer at the Elecraft HF Station which is the last computer needing to be replaced.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reported all HF stations are working. The Drake amplifiers are fixed. See www.contestcalendar.com for radio sport. ARRL international DX, SSB is this Friday. CQ worldwide WPX SSB is March 25th. Classic Exchange both CW and SSB are also upcoming in March. The HF stations are available for contests and if you want to work one, let Phil know. See www.ng3k.com for DX-pedition information. Some upcoming DX is Crozet Is. FT8WW, Sable Is. CY0S, St. Vincent J8NY and Mali TZ1CE.
Phil is still working with Steve AF7YD on the VHF/UHF to get digital working. All the VHF/UHF antennas are now working.

Al N7OMS reported he's working on a video script for how to set up and use the RCT Flex 6500.
Randy WB4SPB reported that he uploads our logs to LOTW about once each month, except for contest logs which are usually submitted fairly soon after the contest ends.

Tower (K7MO)

Adam W2NCC is working with Nick K7MO on plans for maintenance to the tower. Standoffs, rotator, etc. Adam will notify members when work is to be done because there will be a needed work party.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)

Al N7OMS reported on the Bates move: We moved two repeaters out of the old building into the new building and moved the Heliax cables for them toward the new building. The new building is a standard ATT station. It has power, is clean, dry and air conditioned. It has some commercial equipment in it but plenty of room for our equipment. Al has the codes and locks for gaining entry so we

can go in anytime. He will notify the senior engineer at Bates as a common courtesy when we go there. We need to add about 30' of Heliax to both the lines. We also need to get air into one of the Heliax cables as it is air insulated type. Nick K7MO is going to obtain the necessary tubing and fittings to do that. Dry air is available at the former Bates building. Currently, our plans are not to use the old repeater we moved but to use the GE Master III that's in the clubhouse now. Bob Mizener N7BUW has been working with Al on that equipment and it was working well until it was hooked up to an amplifier and then sparks flew! So more tuning and troubleshooting needs to be done. Bob is an excellent resource as he has component knowledge and great tools for working on GE equipment.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported on the AED. The replacement battery and pads are available at a cost of $350. The lifespan for those is probably two years. Adam moved to purchase a new battery and pads for $350. Motion was seconded by Doug AB7DG. David Ashley W7GEL indicated he might get a better price, so David will check first but the motion for $350 stands. Motion carried.

Adam reported on the club's camera system and the plan is to mount 12 cameras outside on the clubhouse, garage and shed. There are plans to try to get online access to the camera DVR so it can also be monitored remotely. Adam reported on a submitted bid he received for work on the soffit/fascia for $3150. The bid is attached to this report. The contractor makes this bid with the idea that club members will help. For instance, if the contractor doesn't do painting the club members can do that. He also wants the club members to supply ladders and possibly scaffolding. After some discussion there was a need to clarify some of the bid issues and we need to contact Tacoma Power about the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting the power. For that reason, Adam will resubmit an updated estimate at our next BOD meeting.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reported in February PMT took in $1000. Stuff for Mike & Key is packed up and ready to go. Red plans to get rid of a lot of the low value items so they don't come back to the club as he has no place to store it. If necessary, he'll give it away if he can't sell it cheaply. He has seven people to help and three tables. Deanna KA7DCX will be our cashier at M&K.

Museum (KD7SV)

Adam W2NCC reported the Hammarlund HQ-146 is next to be updated/repaired. Dan KD7SV gave PMT the Hammarlund HQ-100 and HQ-140-x to be sold.

Weds Workshop (WB4SPB)

Gary WG7X reported that Randy's WB4SPB technical workshop was really good last week.

General Meeting (W7UUU)

Dave W7UUU reported having a two-hour interview with Bob Heil K9EID (Heil sound). For March, Dave will put together a video based on his interview with Bob.

Unfinished Business

• Steve AF7YD moved to buy Bob's (K7MXE) Champion, dual fuel 9000W generator for $500. Motion was seconded by Doug AB7DG. After discussion of the testing of that generator and the wisdom of purchasing

used, versus a new generator, the motion passed 5 to 3.

• One thing the burglars stole was some of our heavy duty power cords used for Field Day. Mike W7XH volunteered to go to the Field Day location and measure out the distances needed for new power cords. We have one length of 100' of 8ga/4-wire cord and will probably need somewhat more than another 100 feet.

• BOD Photos update & planning (W7MKE): Mike W7MKE has made available to BOD members blue polo type shirts w/Radio Club of Tacoma script for purchase or use for photo. Shirley Keen KK7GZL, a professional photographer, has offered to do pictures for BOD for our website. The BOD decided to ask if Shirley could take photos either before our General Meeting next week or before our next BOD meeting April 5th.

New Business

Rod Kirsch W7RKZ Field Day planning:

• Gary WG7X wanted to do 10M and will supply a radio for that station.

• Are we planning one shelter? For now, Rod plans the same set-up as last year.

• Usually, the May general meeting is for FD. So Dave W7UUU will coordinate with Rod W7RKZ for that program.

More later as Rod contacts potential station managers and others for tasks.

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements

• Steve AF7YD was contacted by the Trilogy Radio Club of Bonney Lake who wanted to tour our club. Steve planned the tour for 5:30 PM April 12th. BOD had no objections.

• Adam W2NCC reports the new radio project is coming along. This is an effort to buy an IC-7610 for the club from money raised for that purpose through donations and donated equipment sales.

• Gary WG7X reports the February BARK is now available on the website.

• Mike W7XTZ reported working Madeira Island on 10M.

• W7UUU reported he received his St Helena QSL card.

Adjournment at 20:30

Submitted by Michael Drorbaugh RCT Secretary .

Radio Club of Tacoma

General Meeting Agenda

March 8, 2023

Officers and Directors Present:

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

Board: Paul Matney K7PFU

Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board: Bruce Hanson WE7P

Meeting Called to Order at 19:00 by President Mike W7XTZ.

Flag Salute: Led by Leonard KA7NWF.

Quorum?

There was not a quorum and 26 voting members attended. The attendance list is attached.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors.

No new members or visitors

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness

• SK- Jim Hatfield K7SSS 2-08-23. No other information is available.

• SK – Debbie Oakman KD7UYN 2-15-23. See the February BARK for Debbie's obituary.

• Randy WB4SPB reported Paul Saunier W7GAN came to the club Saturday 2/25 and by March 1st, was testing positive for Covid as was Steve Dightman AF7YD who was also at the clubhouse Saturday.

• Nick Winter K7MO is recovering from both Covid and shingles.

• Paul Matney also got Covid recently and is recovering without difficult symptoms but has some disabling knee pain he's battling.

PROGRAM

Dave Ellison W7UUU showed an interview with Bob Heil K9EID (Heil sound). Dave met Bob years ago when he was invited to be on Ham Nation with him. This was before the YouTube version of Ham Nation. Dave has remained in touch with Bob and recently Dave asked to interview Bob on various historical issues that will eventually go on to Dave's YouTube channel (Dave's Radio Shack). Bob used to be involved with famous rock bands and celebrities such as Joe Walsh WB6ACU, Keith Moon; drummer for the Who , Grateful Dead and others as the sound engineer and a roadie/designated driver. The program will be available on the W7DK website or Dave's YouTube channel (Dave's Radio Shack). See Antique Electronic Supply

(https:// www.tubesandmore.com)for Bob Heil's pine board kit and other project supplies.
Old Ham Nation episodes are on Twitch net (https://www.hamnation - Twitch)

- **Secretary's Report**
  Mike W7MKE reported on significant news from the March 1st BOD meeting.
  • Generator /power cord. Our FD generator was stolen and Bob Heselberg K7MXE offered the club a 9000W dual fuel generator in lightly used condition with only 17 hours of use for $500. After we checked it out the BOD voted to purchase it for the club.

- WA State Fair
  Steve Blacksten AD7VL found out who the fair contact was and that was passed to Stephen Morton AD7AB who has been trying to make contact to find out what opportunities W7DK might have at the fair.

• Andy Willms' KE7RTB offer. Andy has given the club a DMR hotspot and a DMR HT. He's very capable in the DMR radio environment and has offered this gear and is willing to Elmer club members in DMR operations.
• Trilogy Radio Club visit/tour Steve AF7YD was contacted by Trilogy Radio Club (of Bonney Lake area) who wanted to see the W7DK clubhouse. Steve arranged for them to visit April 12th. Expect 4-5 visitors then.
• Rod Kirsch W7RKZ & FD Rod has agreed to be the FD coordinator this year. If you have been involved in helping with FD last year or in the past and want to help again this year, please make yourself known to Rod and let him know what you want to help with.

Treasurer's Report

Steve AF7YD reports that property taxes of $4800 have been paid. Also the club did a group buy for VARA licenses. February's report showed $1080 income for VARA from club members who each purchased the license and gave the money to the club. In April (March report) we will see expenditures of $1080 for VARA so this is a zero-sum deal. Also the $500 for the generator purchase will show in April meetings (March Financial Report).

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reported at the beginning of the year we had 235 members and today we have 282 members, thus adding 47 since January 5th. This includes about 13 or 14 new first-time members.

Training (AD7AB)

Stephen AD7AB and Michael AD7TH will have Technician classes this weekend and 12 people are signed up.

VE REPORT (AC7WW)

Your VE Team traveled South to JBLM for an Exam session on Friday March 3rd. Twenty Exam elements were graded from eight candidates. Three passed element 2 to become Technicians. Three candidates passed elements 2 & 3 to become Generals and one passed elements 2, 3 and 4 to become an Extra. One candidate upgraded to General. Thanks to Stephen Morton AD7AB, Mike Isakson W7XH and Jan Gilbertson K7HTU for their service and time on March 14th, 2023.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reported all HF stations are working. The Drake amplifiers are fixed and the one on the Flex worked well for the CQ worldwide DX contest last Saturday. See www.contestcalendar.com for upcoming radio sport. The upcoming contests are CQ worldwide WPX SSB is March 25th. Classic Exchange both CW and SSB are also upcoming in March. The HF stations are available for contests and if you want to work one, let Phil know. See www.ng3k.com for DXpedition information. Some upcoming DX is Crozet Is. FT8WW, Sable Is. CY0S, St. Vincent J8NY and Mali TC1ZE.

Phil is still working with Steve AF7YD on the VHF/UHF to get digital working. All the VHF/UHF antennas are now working.

IT Report (WB4SPB)

Randy reports new computers are installed on HF stations. We still need to get audio installed at the Elecraft station so there are no digital modes there for now. He replaced the solid-state drive in the Emcomm computer so it should be ok for now.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV reports the Hammarlund HQ-145 is being worked on but has no output yet, so that needs to be fixed. Dan wants to buy the Heathkit SB-220 amplifier from property management for use in the museum. Dan thinks that would be a great addition to the Museum. He hopes to have that available by the end of June. Randy WB4SPB reported that W7OS got on the air last weekend during Classic Exchange CW and qualified two radios.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reports they are "geared up" for Mike & Key this weekend, and we are ready to go. We have three tables on the main floor. If you want W7DK to sell your stuff, bring it to our tables and W7DK will try to sell it for a 10% charge. Last month PMT took in $1000.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported we received a bid for the work on the eve/soffit/fascia repairs. We still need to contact Tacoma Power to find out about a disconnect and reconnect charge. This is needed because some of the repairs are on the eve where the power line comes into the club. We are also working on installing security cameras at the club. Mike W7XH is leading that effort.

Unfinished Business

Mike W7XH visited Western State hospital to measure for power cords needs. He estimates we need another 190 feet of 8ga. 4-wire rated SOOW for Field Day.

New Business

Anne N7ANN has booked a our usual place at Steilacoom Park for August 6th Kirkreit picnic.

Announcements/show and tell/ traffic & Tuning.

- Dave W7UUU contacted the Bay Area field sales representative for Flex Radio and he may be a potential presenter for the April 12th monthly meeting.
- Lots of activity on the 10M/12M/15M bands.
- Dave W7UUU showed off his ZD7FT St. Helen's Island QSL card.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2037.

Michael Drorbaugh – RCT Secretary

MAILBAG!!

First we have this from Rich, KR7W sending from remote Ammon Idaho!

Randy operates the Drake T4-R4 Twins combo using a classic Vibroplex Bug from the W7OS key collection. Kudos to Randy for entertaining me at W7OS during my visit to Tacoma.

Rich Patrick, Ammon Idaho.

Rich, Thanks for this nice candid pix of Randy. He said that he did not know that you took the picture!

Mike & Key club's Annual Electronics Show and swap meet.

W7DK had a table there as did a few other members of Radio club of Tacoma. We have a nice assortment of pictures to show here and some of the folks in the pictures did not come with an identification(s) for the editor, so please bear with me on this and if you're in one of these with out an ID I apologize in advance. The photographer did not supply me with any names and I don't know everyone pictured by name… But here we go! (ed.)

Left, Adam W2NCC with a new acquisition ; some kind of Swan radio. He likes to revive them. Look to see that in the museum some time soon all torn apart and getting a good refurb.

Below, Red, WB7EC or property management chief with his ever ready list of stuff for sale.

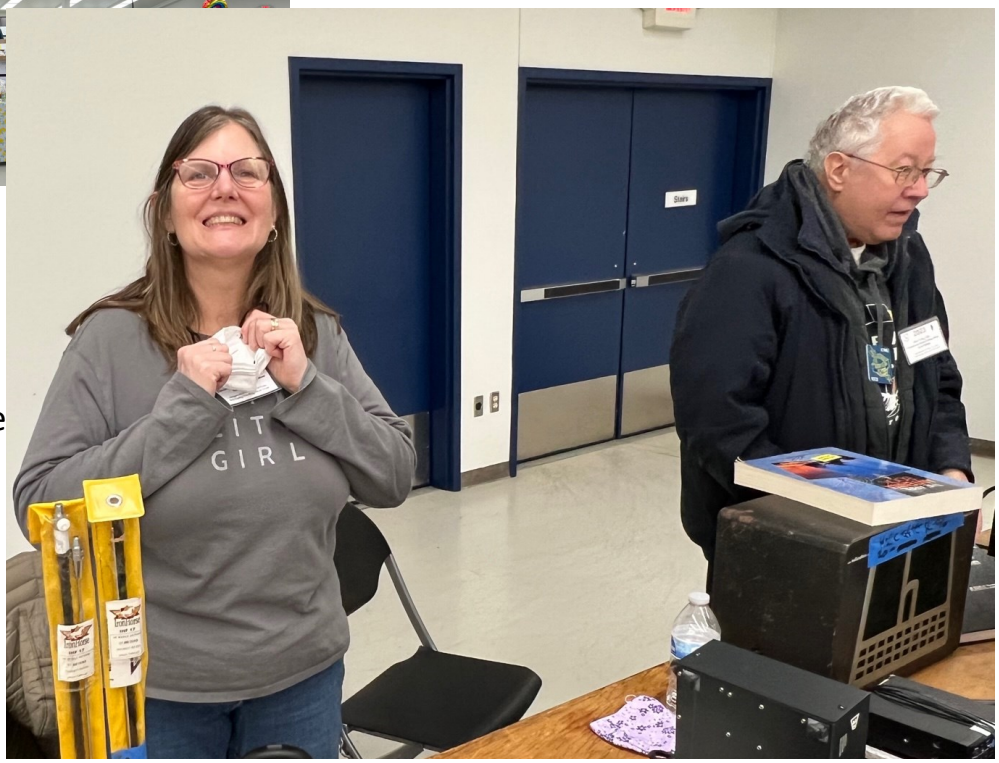
Then there's Deanna KA7DCX helping out with the RCT sale table.

Looking good!

Top Left Mike, W7XH, load master at the Hamfest. Below left Steve AF7YD also helping with set up. Old radios pix sent in by Bob K7MXE. Used for filler. Thanks Bob!

Left Tom W7TJL and Paul K7OSS setting up the W7DK tables prior to opening day. A whole lotta work went into getting this done. A big thank you! To all those who helped!

Left, Another, better picture of Deanna smiling away as she does duty at the W7DK booth / table. Then, below her just a shot showing a bit of the crowd at the ham fest, taken from the WG7X / K7MO + K7ANA tables.



Right, Anna and Nick K7ANA and K7MO at their table doing the sales bit. The WG7X table was right next to theirs and we had a great time gossiping between sales!

The Mighty DK's!

Monthly QSO Report

Each month in the *Bark* the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you.

It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of **The Mighty DK** to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the *Bark*! (Don't forget to enter your call sign as the operator into our logging program.)

QSOs February 28 through March 31, 2023:

Wade W7ITL: 1
John W7CBC: 9
Andy KE7RTB: 31
Mike W7MKE: 38
Mike W7XH: 319 (2 months in a row over 300 QSOs!)

What was old is now new again!

Once upon a time, the Radio club of Tacoma had a list of people who would act as mentors to new hams or just hams who wanted to ask questions about almost anything.

In ham radio lingo, these types of folks were called “Elmers” from old articles printed, probably in QST, about fellows that would help new hams with questions pertaining to ham radio. The actual origin of the term is kind of lost in the mists of time, but RCT has had this list of mentors for many years. It went away for “reasons” and is now making a return to the club and the Loggers Bark.

This list is preliminary and will be edited or added to as time goes on.

In the list below, you will se members listed with numbers after their names. The numbers correspond to the subject list on the left. So just look at the numbered subject list on the left and see who has those subject(s) as one of their topics. Phone numbers are listed for your use.

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio? Here is a place..... First is the listing of areas of support, followed by a list of members' areas of interest.	Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Help with topic
1.Technical questions, Classes	Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)
2. Help with Code	Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)
3. License Examinations	Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)
4. Antenna and Station planning	Dave W7UUU 360-443-6981 (2,4,6,9)
5. Antenna and Tower erection	Gary WG7X 253-327-0503 (1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12)
6. Buying new or used equipment	Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)
7. Equipment repair	Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)
8. Understanding and operating your equipment	Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
9. DX and Contests	Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)
10. Club and ARRL activities	Steve AF7YD 253-988-0878
11. Using test equipment	
12. IRLP , Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink,Vara, Satellite	

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz©w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc©w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd©w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p©w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu©w7dk.org

Doug Schafer AB7DG©w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec©w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia©w7dk.org

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ARRL Liaison: Unassigned

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The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3